# S I X TH <br> ANNUALREPORT <br> OF THE <br> 'TORONTO CI'TY MISSION, <br> ADOPTED AT A 

general meeting of The society;

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 6тн APRIL, 1853.

TORONTO:
Printed at tae "Globe" Book and Job Printing Off of, No. 22, King Street West,
1853.

## OFFICERS.


D. BUCHAN, PETER FREELAND, JNO. McMURRICH,
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E. F. WHITTEMORE, JOHN BOYD,
J. FOSTER, JOHN M. ROSS,
W. F. MEUDELL, JAMES SHAW, OLIVER, MOWAT, THOS. CLARKSON, JNO. F. MARLIN, JNO. NASMITH, WM. STRACHAN,
and all evangeligal ministers who co-operate with the societ ${ }^{\prime}$

> Ureasurer : DAVID MAITLAND,

Secretaries:
PETER BROWN, | GEO. PYPER,

## REPORT.

When an alarm of fire is given in our City, how great is the excitement which it causes-what a rush is forthwith made to the threatened spot, and how eager is every one to ascertain whether their own propetty, or the property of some particular friend is threatened with destruction. Every pursuit is for the time thrown aside, until feelings of duty or friendship, or perhaps of curiosity have been fully gratified-the very concerns of eternity are for the moment interrupted, by the warning of such a calamity, ard the place of public worship is often abandoned with indecent precipitation. How much more intense would the feeling be, if a decree were to go forth, from which there was no escape, and no remedy, that on a certain day, two of the inhabitants of Toronto must leave the city, never to return-that the sentence left two roads open to ${ }^{*}$ them-one which would lead them to a new, and a secure and happy home, and the other terminating in a precipice, often unseen by travellers, where death must be inevitable. Supposing one of the doomed travellers to approach the fatal road, how anxiously would his benevolent neighbours warn him of his danger, cast themselves in his way, and implore him to take the road which would alone lead to safety. It might be all in vain, and the devoted traveller might madly rush on his own destruction, and he seen no more. How long would such an occurrence be cherished in the annals of the city ! It would be the fireside tale for generations. But, if instead of one solitary event of this kind, a law were passed that every day on which the sun rose, two of the inhabitants of Toronto must leave the city for ever, by one or other of these roads-oh ! how deep would be the desire to save the lives of those who should in their turn go forth. To convince the whole inhabitants of the awful danger of the one road, and the safety of the other, would become an overwhelming pursuit with all who loved their neighbours. Fam morning to night would the benevolent ply the houses of the inhabitants, and urge them to go out, and survey the two roads, before it should be their turn to leave the city. With eager haste would the news fly from street to street, that one had been seen to approach the precipice. Then
would the humane be seen rushing from every street by the shortest
out hope in the world. It is the business of the City Missionary to visit this class of the people, and to urge their attention to those things which belong to their everlasting peace, ere they are forever hid from their eyes. The Society has been able to employ two Missionaries during the past year-one for the whole year, and another a few months. Though this agency is far less than is required to operate in so wide a field, they would humbly express their gratitude to God that he has been pleased to induce so many to come forward in aid of so important a work. To the Ladies Association they are indebted for the funds for sarrying on the Mission. With unwearied zeal they have during the past year gone from house to house, and received subscriptions in support of the Society, while in addition a large sum was raised by a bazaar under their superintendence. While employed in their collections, the ladies had some pleasing evidence of the faithfulness of the Missionaries, having ascertained that their labours had in certain cases been remarkably blest in the reformation, and it was believed in the conversion of the parties. The Committee rejoice to state that the means which they have been able to employ have not been without fruit, which they would humbly attribute entirely to the gracious influence of the Spirit of God. In some cases of great poverty, reported by the Missionaries, relief has been given by private contributions, and the ladies found that in all those cases, the Missionaries' recommendations were fully warranted by the facts.

They would now notice certain interesting portions of the Missionaries' Reports, beginning with that of Mr. Stewart.

November 20.-Visited ten families in - Street. One woman said that she had been a teacher for nine years in a Sabbath School in England, but having three young children to attend to, she rarely entered a place of public worship. This is only one of a numerous class of cases. Many in such circumstances are almost shut out from attending religious ordinances, while others make it an excuse for entire absence, when they might give at least partial attendance. A stronger argument for a City Mission could not be employed. The Missionary can be most beneficially employed in stirring up the attention of such to their spiritual interests, or in imparting that instruction and sympathy which they are prevented from receiving in the place of public worship.

January 5, 1852.-Visited eleven families. People in this street are much addicted to drinking-never read the Bible, and never hear it read, excepting when the Missionary calls; profess to respect it, although living habitually in open violation of its teachings. One man among them has been induced to attend the Missionary Prayer meeting.

Jandary 6, 1852.-Street-One family reduced to misery by drunkenness, had not been in a Church for fifteen years. Six families in - Street, all given to excessive drinking. Some not in Church for years, others not since they came to Toronto. Piofessed to belong to Church of England.

January 7.-Visited Hospital. One man T. much interested. Said he was no Christian, but had a desire to understand the truth, particularly the nature of the new
birth-Missionary spoke on the subject-The poor man with tears in hiss eye eaid he understood it a little better, and requested Mr. Stewart to come ofien to see him. Several others very pressing for instruction. An attempt was made to shut out the Missionary from conversing with the Patients belonging to one denomination. This was resisted by the Missionary, and by the Committee, on its being reported to them. There are very few even of those, who have the greatest need of a Missionary's instructions, who do not profess to belong to some denomination or other, and the Agents employed must exercise their own discretion, as to the persons who most require their attention. They are happy to say that all obstruction of this kind has been withdrawn, and that it is not likely to occur again.

January 20.-B. B.-In a very disorderly neighbourhood the Missionary had this day the happiness of finding a man who had been much addicted to drink, but who had become sober, and a woman also restored to sobriety, who is evidently ouquiring the road to Zion. She reads the Scriptures, acknowledges herself a great sinner, and that she has done no good act in the course of a long life.
$\mathbf{J}_{\text {ANUARY }} 22 .-$ A melancholy picture by the Missionary of the state of 11 families visited-six professedly Protestant, and five Roman Catholic. The whole degraded by habitual drunkenness, and living in Houses destitute of every comfort, and scarcely affording them any shelter from the inclemency of the weather. Some received with laughter, or infidel remark the Missionary's admonitions-others acknowledged they were great sinners and in serious danger. Some promised reform, but all requested him to continue his visits-strong encouragement to persevere in the good cause.

February 3.-Missionary visited an aged sick man, whom he had seen on former occasions-found a great change in him since last visit. His views were then all dark, now he seemed to have found the Saviour, and to have believed sincerely upon him for salvation. This man died in the course of the month-Missionary had been at great pains to make the way of salvation clear to him, and it was believed that he died in the faith and hope of salvation, through the Redeemer.

February 11.-A very old man who had been induced to attend the Missionary Prayer meeting, was so struck with some remarks on the 22d Psalm, that he was committing it to memory, and expected to have it finished before his death.

## death in the hospital.

The Missionary had often visited a man named B. during his illness. He appeared from the first to be deeply interested in what was addressed to him-on the 12 h Feby. Missionary paid his last visit, and found him fast sinking. He had no fear of death, having triumphed over it, through faith in Christ, which he had more than once ex-pressed-Missionary read part of the 2lst Chapter of Revelations, and the 23d Psalm.The dying man said he heard all, and trusted entirely to his Saviour. In half an hour after Missionary left him he expired, and it was the belief of those who were with him during his iluess, that his was a happy death.

March 1st.-Two families, who had been induced to attend the Prayer Meeting, now go regularly to Church, and a Prayer Meeting is held in each of their own houses, one on Tuesday, and another on Thursday Evening.

March 25.-Visited Hospital-found two Patients dying. R. was a Roman Catholic ; but always received Missisonary kindly-B. had been brought up a Presbyterian, and altho' visited by the Roman Catholic Priest, he told Missionary he had no coufidence iu him or his Church, for he knew that the blood of Christ could alone cleanse from all sin.

April 2d. -Street-A distressing account of the neighborhood visited this day. Some refused to hear, abusing such as the Missionary as hypocrites, and others in such a state with liquor, and the marks of recent quarrele, that it was vain to address them under such circumstances.

April 3d -Visited seven families, who gave great attention to Missionary while arging on them the love of God in Christ. Several old people here, who could not tell how long it was, since they had been in a place of worship. Some expressed their regret in not having attended to the concerns of religion.
April 4.-Prayer Meeting as usual. Missionary had the pleasure of seeing some attend it, who had declared that they would never go to such a Meeting.

April 8-J. D.-Found this man under convictions of sin. He had not been in a Church for fifteen years-his father had belonged to no Church. So resolutely determined was this man against religion that he had sold all his books including his Family Bible, which had caused him deep distress. It was not the use of liquor which had caused this conduct, but obstinate resistance to the grace of God. He was a profane's wearer. He saic the Missionary was the only man, who had shewn any interest in his snuls welfare. He had lately bought a Bible, and was reading it when Missionary entered. He attends the prayer meeting regularly, and his wife who expresses great thankfulness for the change on her husband goes there also. Mrs. M-, a woman hitherto careless, has in her old age exhibited every indication of being a changed person, and that the Spirit of God is dealing graciousiy with her.

May 4-Missionary had an interesting conversation to-day with a young womanShe said to him, "I was brought to your Prayer Meeting by a neighbour, Mrs G - I went to Church, but was ignorant of my Bible. I am obliged to work hard for a living, and during the day would count it lost time to read my Bible. After my work is done, I go to bed, and read my Bible before I sleep. In four months I have read all the New Testament, and have begun to the Old." Although reading in bed at night is rather a dangerous practice, yet it is interesting to see this poor hard working woman so eager to acquire the knowledge of salvation. It may perhaps have been gone about as a task in which there was some idea of merit-but better things are to be hoped. She told the Missionary, she could not say she was a Christian, but she knew she was a great sinner. and that the blood of Christ cleanseth from all sin. How much need have the hard working poor of the sympathy and prayers of those, whose lines have been cast in more pleasant places.

Adugust 15.-A most gratifying case is recorded in the Report of this date. A man and his wife had been given up to intemperance-they were with their young family reduced to the deepest poverty, often in want of daily bread Their wants were supplied by private charity; but they felt no gratitude, for their hearts were hard. The Missionary visited them often-bore with their repulses, and at last succeeded in getting them to attend the Prayer Meeting. After that, the reformation was rapid-they became quite sober, and now attend regularly on the means of grace. They attribute the change to the visits of the Missionary. Let us fervently hope, and pray, that the change may be permanent, and result in their everlasting salvation.

Another Family reclaimed-Mr._ and family, hitherto intemperate have become sober, and attend the Prayer Meetings.

October 28.-Missionary of this date speaks in very decided terms of the blessing that has accompanied his labours. A Mrs. M— said to him ;-" When you first visited my cottage, 1 knew nothing of a God or a Saviour, or of the evil of sin. I now believe that there is not a greater simner on the face of the earth, but your instruction has been blessed to make me believe in the pardoning love of God." Another said, before I go to your prayer meeting, I pray to God, that you may speak from the heart to the heart, and as often as I do so-l receive instruction, and nothing will prevent me attending your meeting. Others request the Missionary if he should hear of their belng sick, to come at once to their bed side. A poor widow aknowledges that she and her children were saved from starvation through the relief procured by the Missiouary from the frieuds of the cause. One yonng woman who had taught in a Sabbath School, and who had attended the Prayer Meeting, came to bid Missionary farewell, as she was going into the country to the distance of seventy miles. She said :- "I will never ©orget our Prayer Meeting, and if we uever meet there, I hope we will meet in Heaven."

December 1.-Visited one young man, sick in P. S. He told Missionary that within the last eight weeks a great change had taken place in his views. He said, I now think on religion, as I never thought before. Oh ! that it had been my choice mauy years ago. But I was careless and had none to give me a good advice. Now I believe and trust in Jesus, believing that even now he can save me.
The Prayer Meeting held by the Missionary Stewart appears to have been much blest, In June last theattendance was generaily between 90 to 100, besides children. Of these the greater part had entirely neglected public worship, and others ever since they came to Toronto. 39 of this number became members of seven different congregatıns in the city, and from June to November, 12 others joined themselves to some congregation of helievers. Mr. Stewart, from 1st January, to 31st Dec., 1852, made 2353 vists to private houses ; visited the Jail 13 times ; the General Hospital 54 times. He distributed 1071 tracts, 1 bible, and 21 testaments, and held 61 Cottage Meetinge.

## Your Committee will now make some extracts from the Journal of

 Mr. Johnston :-June 1.-L-Street. A poor man belonging to the English Church asked Missionary if he did not think good works had something in them to merit salvation.He told him that good works had no merit, for that would be to slight the value of the Redeemer's righteousness. The man replied-then I need not do anything good. Yes, said the Misstonary. Faith and good works go together. Faith is the instrument of Salvation : the hand that accepts what Jesus Christ has done, and suffered for sinners, and good works are the evidence of that acceptance. The fruit on a tree is not the cause of the tree's life, but the evidence of it-so good works are not the cause of a sinner's Salvation, but the evidence of it. The man said, he saw the way of Salvation more ctearly than he had ever done, and was thankful for the instruction af-
forded to him.

June 3.-L_ and T-_ Streets. Asked a poor man who goes to no place of worship, if he had a bible. He said no, and acknowledged it was not from poverty, but carelessness. Thanked the Missiouary for the interest he took in him, and said, if he would bring him a bible, he would pay whatever it cost. Missionary was rejoiced to fiud that a tract he had left with a poor drunken woman, entitled - "12 months mourning" had been the means of reclaiming her from her downward course.

June 9.-Superintended Sabbath School, and addressed the meeting at the Don. Had the pleasure to hear the testimony of a lady to the clange that had taken place in that neighbourhood, since these meetings commenced. Formerly there was so much fighting in the street arising from drink, that it was unsafe to go out at night-now al is quiet-a striking testimony of the benefits derived from the Gospel even in this life

June 13.-An affecting scene occurred at the Sabbath School. Missionary read to the children the tract already noticed, entitled, "twelve month's mourning." A little girl about seven years of age, after it was finished was observed to be drowned in tears. Missionary asked her what was the matter. She said, "Oh! will you give me this tract to take home to my mother." It seems the mother was given up to intemperance, and the poor child conceived it might be beneficial to her. The spirit of God undoubtedly induced this movement, for next Nabbath the child was seen leading her mother into the Schonl. where they have ever since attended with regularity. The behaviour of the litte girl is quite serious, and she is universally beloved by those around her.
14. - Missionary had the happiness to receive the thanks of a man whom he had induced to join the Temperance Society. Before, he was ever quarrelling with his wife and children. Now all is peace and tranquility. The family attend upon the Prayer Meetings, and other means of grace. An old seafaring man given to drink, but then sober, met Missionary at his door and tried to keep him out. Missionary pushed past him, when his wife said-that was a good tract you left with us lately. To
h_mith you said her husband-I am an old sea captain, and have ofteu crossed the ocean, and am more fit to teach you, than you are to teach me I believe, said the Missionary, you could teach me many things about crossing the ocean, but 1 cau teach you how to cross the ocean of life, at the edge of which you now seem to be. "Nonsense" said he. "If you would but listen," said the Missionary, " 1 would point you to Jesus the glorious Captain of Salvation, who would wash your sins in his own precious blood, and receive you into the Haven of everlasting rest." "To h_with you," again cried the miserable man, "if I had the bible here I would tear it in pieces, and trample it under my feet-leave the house, and don't insult me." A man sitting in the room here interrupted, saying "I don't see why you should quarrel with Mr. Johnstonlast time he was here, I read the tract after he left, and you heard it attentively and cried like a child." vissionary left another tract and said he trusted Mr. —— would be in a better humour next time he called.

July 1 and 2.-Visited 21 families in —— Street, and held a Prayer Meeting. One poor woman at the close of the meeting, who goes to no place of worship, expressed her gratitude, and her determination to attend to the concerns of her soul more than she had ever done.
July 12.-Called again on the old seaman, who received Missonary kindly-asked him to sit down, and talk with him-apologized for his rudeness on his last visit-said Mr. J. was not three rods from the house, when be repented of his behaviour-that he always read the tracts which were left, and was thackful for them. The neighbours were surprised that the Missionary would venture to approach so fierce a man as this old sailor. One man belonging to the English church expressed deep gratitude for the labours of the Missionary in that quarter, and on enquiring how he was supported, was answered, that it was by Christians of various denominations. The man said-he would willingly contribte two pounds a year for his support.
July 17.-Visited the Tract District. One very striking testimony received of the value of tract distribution. A poor woman belonging to the Roman CatholiowChurch thanked the Missionary for his kindness for leaving the tract. Said her son conld now read them, and they were precious books, every one better than another. Said she liked to read Protestant books, and began to like Protestants themselves better than she had ever done. At first this woman was afraid to receive these little messengers of truth. Now she receives them joyfully. May God make them instrumental to bring her and hers to the full knowledge of the truth !

August 4 and 6.-Visited 25 families in $\qquad$ Street. A poor man, who belongs to no church received Missionary cordially, told him he had ruined his body by drinking, and he believed his poor soul also. He had acted like a beast having spent tmany nights on the cold ground. His lungs were now affected, and he had not long to five. Missionary said his body might be so ruined that he must soon leave this world, but that it was not too late to save his soul. The penitent thief on the cross found mercy in the last hour, and so might he, by casting himself on the mercy of God in Christ, and although his sins were as scarlet they would be all washed away by the blood of Christ. The poor man brought his bible, and begged the Missionary to read and pray with him-which he did, and entreated him to pray fervently for himself.This he promised to do, and expressed great thankfulness for having the marvellous love of Christ so clearly set before him. Begged the Missionary to see him again soon.

August 13.--This poor man hearing Missionary was in the neighbourhood sent his boy to beg that he would visit him. Mr. Johston found him fast sinking. He told him that he was much worse, that he had been a great sinner ; but that Jesus was a great Saviour, that he loved him, and placed his trust in him. You asked me (said he) to pray for myself. I have done so, and hope my poor prayers have been heard, for I now love to pray, and am quite willing to die. Missionary read 15 th, 16 th and 17 th chapter of John and prayed. The wife of the poor man said her husband had read the bible, and prayed much since the missionary's last visit. Is not this a brand plucked out of the burning ! Who that hears this would withhold his hand from supporting the city Mission?

August 15.-Taught Sabbath School at the Don. 117 children at School, and 65 at the meeting. The little girl and her mother as usual-formerly in rags, now respectably clothed, and much improved in appearance.

August 21.-Two blessed effects of tract distribution revealed this day. A man much given to drink, on returning home from his work took up a tract left by Missionary. He read it through, laid it down, and then cried like a child. On being asked what was the matter, he said to his wife, that is the most remarkable little book I ever read-it suits my case exactly. "I am now so much ashamed of my conduct that I knew not what to do." Aother man who seldom went to any place of worship said to his wife, "I must go to church to day." "How is that, said she, you have not been there for a long time" "I know it said he, but I read the tract Mr. Johnston left last night, and I must go to Church." Let us hope that these results may bo permanent.
September 9.-Another case of suffering from drink. Man acknowledged, that his children who used to go to Sabbath School had been prevented attending by his misconduct. Ptomised amendment and to join the Temperance Society.
August 16-Missionary had an agreeable testimony from the neighbours of a man whom he had visited-that he had not only become sober, but attended regularly on public worship.
September 17 and 18.-When visiting a number of families near the Don, Missionary was requested to call on some whose houses he had not ontered. These families bolonged to the Church of England, and they were anxious to thank him for his labour in that quarter. It is very encouraging to have such voluntary appreciation of the use fulness of a city Missionary.

September 20.-The woman who was led by her little girl to the Sabbath School expressed her deep gratitude to the Missionary, and requested to be supplied with a Bible, which he readily promised to do.

October 18.-Visited the old sailor, and was well received. He talked with the Missiongry for an hour, on the shortness of life, and the necessity of being prepared to die-saia he began to think he had not long to live. Missionary urged him to flee to much attention.

In closing this Report, your Committee would remark that the Institution of a city Mission does not arise out of any thing peculiar in the circumstances of Toronto, but from the necessities of every place, where there is a crowded population. Missions are established in London, Manchester, Liverpool, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Belfast, and other large British Cities. The City of Manchester alone has above seventy Missionaries operating on a population of a hundred and fifty thousand of the inhabitants who live in neglect of the ordinary means of grace. Let it be our business before an enormous amount of irreligion grows up within the bounds of our fair and rapidly growing City to make every effort to restrain its growth. In the old world the number of Missionaries is increased with the number of inhabitants.. We ask the people of 'Toronto to sustain us, so as we may add a Third Missionary to our number. Let no man say in this matter-" Am I my brother's keeper."

Our City is improving in fine buildings, and in wealth and commerce. These are all so far good, but far better will it be if Toronto be distinguished as a City whose inhabitants fear the Living God, and live to His glory.

## sUBscrifptions and donations.


subscriptions and donations.


Manning, Mrs Muttou, Mrs Merchant, Mr . Mulingar, Mrs Millar, Hugh, McPherson, Alex Mailland, David Maitland, Mrs Mitchell, J, Esq McCord, A T McCord, Mrs . Mulholland, J .
McFarlane, Walter
McFarlane, Mrs
Mowat, Mrs
Mercer, A
McMillau, J
McEwen. J $-\bar{D}$
McClellan, Miss, 1851,
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Macually, Miss
McMaster, Wm, Esq
McKay, Jno
McClear, Mr, 1831, -
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McDonald, John
McDonald, J \& W -
McKinnon, Miss
McDonald, Mrs A
Mabley, Mr
Morphy, Mr
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McCutcheon, Mrs, 185
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Mitchell, Mrs -
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Morrison, Mrs A
Maulson, Mrs
Meudell, Mr \& Mrs
McLean, Mrs A
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| McBride, Mrs - |
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Stewart, J


## TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

receipts from january 1st, to december 31 st, $185 \%$.
Collection at last Annual Meeting,
£9 $1 \quad 2$
Subscription from Mr. Catheart,
Collections by Ladies' and proceeds of Bazaar,
2100
$£ 17952$

## DISBURSEMENTS

| Balance due Treasurer January 1st, 1852, |  | - | - | - |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Paid Mr. Stewart, Missionary, | - | - | - | - |  | 11 |
| " Mr. Johnston, " | - |  | - | - |  | 17 |
| * Mr. Gemmill, a balance, | - | - | - | - |  | 17 |
| " Printing, \&c., | - |  |  |  |  | 7 |
| *- Mr. Carless, for Committee Room, |  |  | - |  |  | 10 |
| Balance in Treasurer's hands, | - | - | - | - |  | 6 |

